

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of The Empire District Electric)
Company for Authority to File Tariffs Increasing)
Rates for Electric Service Provided to Customers) Case No. ER-2014-0351
in the Company’s Missouri Service Area)

NOTICE REGARDING NEED FOR HEARING

COMES NOW the Midwest Energy Consumers Group (“MECG”), pursuant to 4 CSR 240-2.115(2) of the Missouri Public Service Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure, and for its Notice Regarding Need For Hearing respectfully states as follows:

1. On April 3, 2015, the remaining parties in this proceeding filed their Non-Unanimous Stipulation and Agreement (“Stipulation”). Contrary to how that settlement had been previously presented to MECG (that the terms were interdependent and were a single unified settlement), the terms of the Stipulation do not present in that fashion. Rather, the Stipulation presents specific resolutions for certain discrete issues. As it has indicated previously, MECG did not believe that it would object to all of the terms of the Stipulation. To the extent then that the terms are not interdependent, and in an effort to streamline the hearing for the Commission and the parties, MECG files this Notice that it accepts the resolutions of the following issues and does not require a hearing on those issues.

Depreciation Expense (Issue A-5): Empire will discontinue depreciation on the retired Riverton 7 and Asbury 2 plants.

Vegetation Management Tracker (Issues A-10B and A-10C): The vegetation management tracker will be discontinued.

Iatan 2 / Iatan Common / Plum Point O&M Trackers (Issue A-11B): These trackers will be discontinued.

Energy Efficiency (Issue A-18): Empire will continue current Energy Efficiency programs with current funding levels and recovery mechanism.

Low Income Weatherization (Issue A-19): Empire will continue the low income weatherization program.

FAC Tariff (Issue B-1A and B-1C): MECG does not object to the continuation of the Empire FAC tariff or to any contemplated reporting requirements. That said, MECG objects to the inclusion of SPP transmission costs in the FAC and, therefore, to the resolution of B-1B.

Miscellaneous Tariffs (Issue B-2A): There shall be no change to the Empire Economic Development Rider.

Standby Service: (Issue B-2C and B-2D): MECG does not object to the stated resolution of these two Standby Service Issues.

Residential Customer Charge (Issue B-3C and B-3D): MECG does not object to keeping the residential customer charge at its current level.

Various Industrial Rate Design Issues: MECG has previously dropped Issues B-3J, B-3K, B-3L and B-3M all concerning interruptible service. Therefore, these issues do not require a Commission decision.

2. MECG further notes that while it objects to the remaining issues contained in the Stipulation and needs a Commission decision on all of those issues, it does not need to cross-examine witnesses on many of those issues. With this in mind, MECG has previously filed, with the other parties, a Motion to waive cross examination on certain

issues and excuse those witnesses from the hearing. Furthermore, MECG is working with the remaining parties to identify other witnesses for whom it can agree to waive cross-examination.

WHEREFORE, MECG respectfully requests that the Commission accept this Notice Regarding Need For Hearing.

Respectfully submitted,



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ATTORNEY FOR THE MIDWEST
ENERGY CONSUMERS GROUP

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have this day served the foregoing pleading by email, facsimile or First Class United States Mail to all parties by their attorneys of record as provided by the Secretary of the Commission.



David L. Woodsmall

Dated: April 6, 2015